

# COVID-19

Friday, July 17, 2020

## GOVERNOR RELEASES MORE INFORMATION SUPPORTING TIGHTER 'SAFE START' MEASURES

The Governor's office followed up yesterday's announcement of new limits on social gatherings and a ban on live entertainment with a detailed web post offering data to support the changes to the Safe Start plan. Information and links at right.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY COVID-19 NUMBERS CONTINUE TO CLIMB

The latest COVID-19 data snapshot submitted to the state today shows the rate of infection in Snohomish County is now nearly 2.5 times higher than is required for the county to be eligible to apply for Phase 3. Over half of those testing positive in the past two weeks were aged 29 or younger.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

### Governor Releases More Information Supporting Tighter Safe Start Measures

Gov. Jay Inslee on Thursday afternoon [announced new limits](#) on social gatherings and a ban on live entertainment in the state as part of a strategy to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. His office followed up later with a detailed web post offering data to support the changes to his [Safe Start](#) plan.

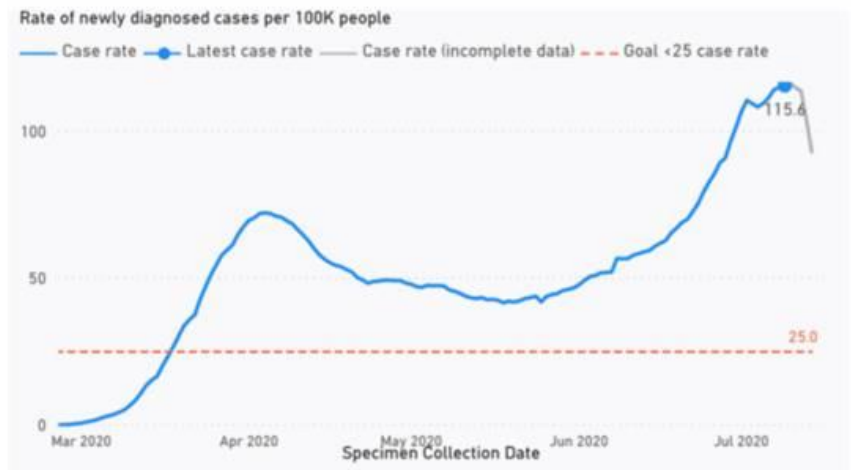
Thursday's announcement came after the state saw the highest single-day increase in cases since the pandemic [began back in January](#). The state Department of Health reported 1,292 new cases Thursday out of the 19,381 cumulative cases statewide.

The seven day rolling average of new cases per day, from June 26 to July 2, was 629 cases per day. This is also the highest since the pandemic began.

"As we inch closer to the fall, we are already on an unsustainable path in the spread of this virus," Inslee said. "We have to change to save lives and to avoid turning the dial back further on the activities we enjoy."

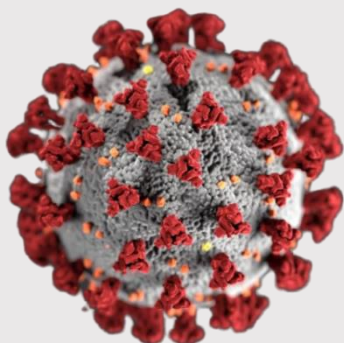
Read the [full post](#) for more information.

### Cases Still Rising Statewide



### Snohomish County COVID-19 Numbers Continue to Climb

The [latest COVID-19 data](#) snapshot submitted to the state Friday by the Snohomish Health District shows the rate of infection in Snohomish County continues to climb. The same is true of hospitalizations. The rate of new confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people is now nearly 2.5 times higher than is required for the county to be eligible to apply for Phase 3 under the state Safe Start plan. Health District data also suggest that more young people are being infected compared with earlier in the crisis. Between June 28 and July 11, 52% of those who tested positive for COVID-19 were aged 29 or younger.



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## ARLINGTON CONTRACTS WITH WSU METRO CENTER TO SUPPORT DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The City of Arlington is using CARES Act funding to assist downtown businesses with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has contracted with WSU Metro Center to lead the project.

## CITY OF EDMONDS HELPING BUSINESSES

The Development Services staff from the City of Edmonds has spent the past three weeks making in-person site visits to Edmonds shops to see what businesses needed to be Phase 2 compliant.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY SNAPSHOT

TIME PERIOD: JUNE 25 - JULY 9  
PUBLISHED: JULY 17, 2020

### COVID-19 ACTIVITY AND CAPACITY IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Snohomish County moved to Phase 2 on June 5. The Snohomish Health District monitors these metrics and submits a weekly report to the Washington State Department of Health.



#### COVID-19 ACTIVITY

COVID-19 ACTIVITY	TARGET	CURRENT	CHANGE SINCE LAST REPORT
Confirmed cases reported June 25 - July 9, 2020	<25 cases / 100,000 residents / 14 days	62.1	↑ from 53.3
Trends in hospitalization for lab-confirmed COVID-19	flat or decreasing	flat	no change



#### HEALTH CARE SYSTEM READINESS

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM READINESS	TARGET	CURRENT	CHANGE SINCE LAST REPORT
% of licensed beds occupied by patients*	<80%	78%	↑ from 74%
% of licensed beds occupied by suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases*	<10%	4%	↑ from 3%

\*Note: Average occupancy for period July 5 - 11, 2020.

[Snohomish County COVID-19 Full weekly report](#)

## Arlington Contracts with WSU Metro Center to Support Downtown Economic Recovery

The City of Arlington was awarded CARES Act funding for local government COVID-19 relief programs and has contracted with WSU Metro Center to assist downtown businesses with recovery.

The WSU Metro Center's project will help support downtown businesses as they deal with the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic recovery. WSU will start with an initial assessment of downtown businesses' needs and assets, conducted in part through an online survey, and they will prepare a plan that builds on the creative and entrepreneurial strengths of the community. The plan will include recommendations for technical assistance, communication and marketing strategies, support for rapid prototyping of new ideas to increase sales, and ways to provide safe shopping experiences for customers. Although the project was created to address immediate needs, it also supports the city's long term vision for a strong and vigorous downtown core by providing businesses with new adaptive skills and strategies they can use beyond the pandemic. The plan will be presented to Arlington in September.

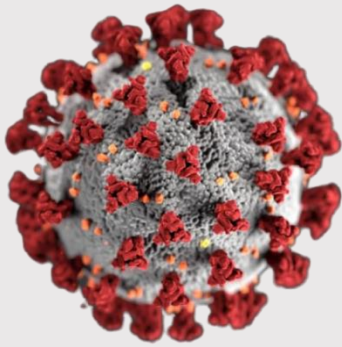
For more information please read Arlington's [E-News](#).

## City of Edmonds Helping Businesses

The City of Edmonds Development Services Department has wrapped up three weeks of in-person site visits to Edmonds shops, stopping in on more than 150 local businesses. Most storefronts had all requirements in place.

The site visits were an opportunity to connect with business owners to see what they needed to be Phase 2 compliant. Teams focused mostly on restaurants, retail and personal services like salons. Some needed masks and others need plastic sheeting, while others just wanted to know where to go to get more information about COVID and grant opportunities.

Business owners who want a site visit can continue to contact the Development Services Department at 425-771-0220.



# COVID-19

## EDMONDS SCHOOLS INTENT SURVEY DUE JULY 24

Families in the Edmonds School District are asked to complete the Back-to-School 2020 Intent Survey. Information and links at right.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATING IN JULY 21 PREPAREDNESS WEBINAR

The hour-long webinar on Tuesday, July 21, will cover topics such as financial preparedness, mental health support, online safety, and other preparedness information.

"This is in no way punitive," said Shane Hope, Development Services Director. "The rules and recommendations surrounding COVID-19 can be confusing. We want to help business owners and workers get it right and connect them where we can to the right people, the right information and the right products."

## Edmonds Schools Intent Survey Due July 24

The Edmonds School District is asking families to complete the Back-to-School 2020 Intent Survey for each student by Friday, July 24. The survey asks if students are planning for in-person learning or full remote learning. It also asks about childcare needs and plans for transportation to and from school.

More information on the survey, in English and Spanish, is available [here](#).

[Back-to-School 2020 Intent Survey](#)

## Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Participating in July 21 Preparedness Webinar

Join Michelle Boll, preparedness program coordinator at Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, for a free webinar discussion about how to get ready for hazards during the COVID-19 crisis.

The event is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Tuesday, July 21. It is hosted online by the state Emergency Management Division. In addition to Boll and state officials, participants include emergency management representatives from the City of Marysville and Bellevue Fire.

Unlike many hazards, such as wildfires or flooding, COVID-19 has touched all Washingtonians at the same time. Learn how to better prepare your family and help your neighbors. Topics include financial preparedness, mental health support and online safety. Now is a good time to start stocking up on supplies and building that emergency kit back up. Some items which have been difficult to access (hand sanitizer, toilet paper, hand soap, etc.) are now readily available in many stores. No need to over-buy, but do pick up a couple extra supplies each time you visit the store.

The webinar link is <https://bit.ly/DRWAWebinar>

For more information visit the [event page](#).



### Disaster Ready Washington Webinar

Join us to learn from preparedness experts about how you can prepare for disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**July 21**  
**11:30am-12:30pm**

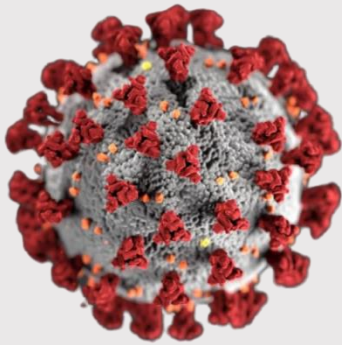
Webinar link:  
<https://bit.ly/DRWAWebinar>

Webinar topics include:

-  financial preparedness
-  mental health support
-  online safety

and other COVID-19 related preparedness information.





# COVID-19

## VIDEO: UNDERSTANDING CONTACT TRACING

The Joint Information Center has published a brief social media video to explain contact tracing and the critical role it plays in reducing the spread of infectious disease, including COVID-19.

## UPDATE ON RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES FROM SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT

The Snohomish Health District shared resources for businesses in a recent newsletter message. The message includes key guidance documents and information on availability of signs / stickers.

## IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY, FEW WITH COVID-19 HAVE NO SYMPTOMS

Most new COVID-19 cases reported in Snohomish County are among people who are experiencing symptoms.

## Video: Understanding Contact Tracing



The Joint Information Center on Friday published a brief social media video that aims to explain contact tracing, and the critical role it plays in reducing the spread of infectious disease, including COVID-19. More information can be found here:

[www.snohd.org/blog.aspx?iid=33](http://www.snohd.org/blog.aspx?iid=33)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

## Update on Resources for Businesses From Snohomish Health District

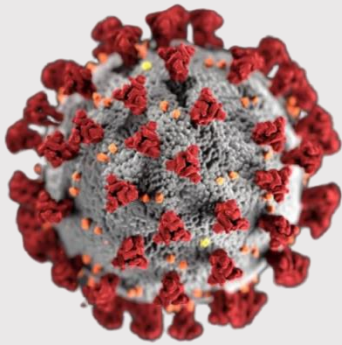
The Snohomish Health District on Thursday shared some resources for businesses in a newsletter message that also is available online. The team at the Health District deeply appreciates the efforts businesses are making to keep employees and customers safe.

The message includes information on some signs/stickers available for businesses, as well as key guidance documents for reference.

Read the message here:

<http://www.snohd.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/118160>





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## DRIVE-THROUGH COVID-19 TESTING SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK IN SOUTH EVERETT

Registrations are being accepted for next week's drive-through testing for COVID-19, offered by the Snohomish Health District. Changes to the service are outlined at right and on SHD's website.

## In Snohomish County, Few With COVID-19 Have No Symptoms

Most new COVID-19 cases reported in Snohomish County are among people who are experiencing symptoms. The type and severity of symptoms can vary, and up to 15% of new positive cases report that they are not symptomatic. Even those who do not have symptoms can spread the illness if they are infected. Close contacts of a confirmed case are asked to quarantine and get tested, even if they do not feel ill.

A list of potential COVID symptoms is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

### Question

What portion of new positive COVID cases don't have symptoms?

### Answer

In recent testing, **only 10-15%** of new positive results are people who did not have symptoms.

Most new reported cases in Snohomish County are among people who **do** have symptoms.

Not everyone who has COVID experiences symptoms. People who are infected can spread the illness even if they are not symptomatic.

We've been asked whether testing is detecting cases among people who aren't really "sick." No. We are still mainly seeing people who have symptoms. And even if they are not feeling ill, positive cases are concerning for the spread of this disease. They are asked to quarantine until at least 10 days from the date of their positive result.



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HEALTH DISTRICT  
WWW.SNOHD.ORG

## Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing Scheduled Next Week in South Everett

For the third straight week, appointments were booked up in advance for the community-based test sites operated by the Health District. This increased demand is further compounded by some local provider groups seeing significant delays with their commercial labs being backed up amidst the growing numbers of cases nationally.

Registrations are being accepted for drive-through testing for COVID-19, offered by the Snohomish Health District. More information:

<https://www.snohd.org/503/Drive-Thru-Testing-Available-by-Appointment>

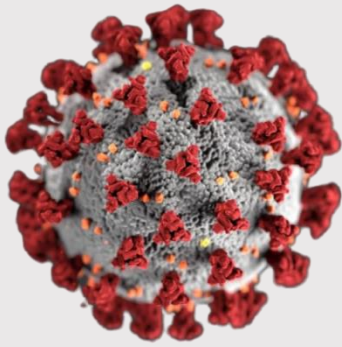
Many local healthcare providers, along with the Health District, are no longer providing testing for travel-related purposes or for pre-approval needs for medical procedures in order to prioritize people who are ill or connected to a confirmed case, outbreak or high-risk population.



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Snohomish County



# COVID-19

## **SAFELY RETURNING TO SCHOOL WILL REQUIRE EFFORT, STATE SAYS**

A new blog published by the state Department of Health explores the report released this week that suggests climbing COVID-19 infection rates and increasing travel are creating unsafe conditions for resuming traditional in-person instruction in the fall.

## **KREIDLER EXTENDS EMERGENCY ORDER ON TELEHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ANOTHER 30 DAYS**

Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler extended his emergency order directing all state-regulated health insurers to make additional coverage changes to aid consumers during the pandemic, including providing telehealth, covering all diagnostic testing for flu and certain other viral respiratory illnesses, and drive-up testing sites for COVID-19.

Given the demand and delays in results, the Health District will once again pivot its operations to increase testing capacity in Snohomish County. For the week of July 20, the Health District will only offer drive-thru testing at McCollum Park located at 600 128th St SE in Everett. The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, July 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 21 from noon to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Thursday, July 23 from noon to 7 p.m.
- Friday, July 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The smaller sites have seen 80-120 individuals per day, but have added complexities in planning multiple locations and transporting equipment around Snohomish County day-to-day. By consolidating testing at just the McCollum Park location, and limiting the need to move between sites, the goal is to get 225-250 people per day next week. Plans are also underway to identify 1-2 larger sites to move to in August to further increase capacity.

## **Safely Returning to School Will Require Effort, State Says**

The state Department of Health has published a [back to school](#) blog post, updating the latest information about efforts to reopen Washington's classrooms. Among other things, the post explores a [report released this week](#) that suggests climbing COVID-19 infection rates and increasing travel by the public are creating unsafe conditions for resuming traditional in-person instruction in the fall.

"We must stop this increase by the end of August in order to reopen schools," the post said. "We are more likely to be able to reopen schools if we all:

- Continue to restrict our travel and the number of people we see socially.
- Wear cloth face coverings in public.
- Stay six feet or more away from other people.
- Get a COVID-19 test if you feel sick, even if you don't have a fever.
- Stay home if you feel at all under the weather.
- Wash our hands or use hand sanitizer frequently."

Read the [full post](#) for more information.

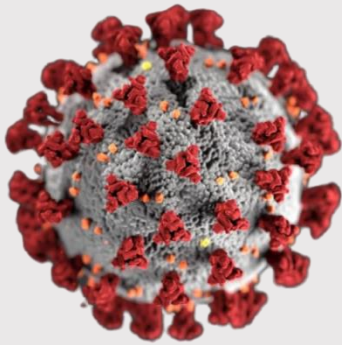
## **Kreidler Extends Emergency Order on Telehealth Coverage for Another 30 Days**

Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler extended his [emergency order](#) directing all state-regulated health insurers to make additional coverage changes to aid consumers during the coronavirus pandemic. His order is in effect until Aug. 16 and requires health insurers to:

- Continue coverage for providing telehealth via methods including telephone and video chat tools such as Facetime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangout video, Skype and Go-to-Meeting.
- Cover all medically necessary diagnostic testing for flu and certain other viral respiratory illnesses billed during a provider visit for COVID-19 with no copay, coinsurance or deductible.
- Treat drive-up testing sites for COVID-19 as provider visit with no copay, coinsurance or deductible.

To help free up hospital beds, Kreidler is directing health insurers to waive or expedite prior authorization requirements for home healthcare or long-





# COVID-19

## **ADDITIONAL \$600 IN FEDERAL BENEFIT FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS SET TO END JULY 25**

The \$600 weekly benefit provided under the CARES act will end after the week ending July 25. Anyone waiting for back payments will still get the additional \$600 when those payments are made.

## **CDC DIRECTOR: WE CAN CONTROL VIRUS IN 4 TO 8 WEEKS IF EVERYONE IN THE US WEARS A FACE COVER**

In an editorial in the journal JAMA and a corresponding interview with the journal's editor, CDC Director Robert Redfield called for "universal masking" to control the virus in as little as four weeks.

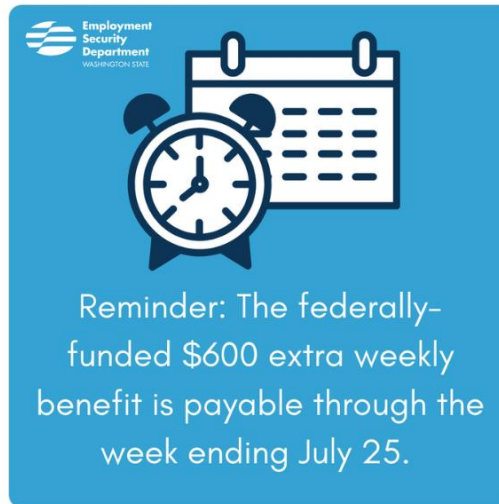
term care facility services to speed up discharging patients who are ready to leave.

For more information please read the Insurance Commissioner's [news release](#) and [Tweet](#).

## **Additional \$600 in Federal Benefit for Unemployed Workers Set to End July 25**



The \$600 weekly benefit provided under the CARES act will end soon, unless it is extended by Congress. The last payment will be on claims for the week ending 7/25. Anyone waiting for back pymts will still get the add'l \$600 when those pymts are made [➔](#)  
[ow.ly/nWpc50AAq0e](https://ow.ly/nWpc50AAq0e)



1:01 PM - Jul 16, 2020 - Hootsuite Inc.

workforce landscape," said Employment Security Department Commissioner, Suzi LeVine. "ESD and our partners in the WorkSource system are here to help in the search for a new job or a new career, or maintain benefits if you cannot yet go back to work."

Nearly all individuals currently receiving unemployment benefits, or benefits under the federal CARES Act programs, receive the additional \$600 per week on top of their base weekly benefit amount. For those eligible for benefits between April 4, 2020 and July 25, 2020, if they should get resolution on their claims after the July 25, 2020, they are still eligible for back payments of FPUC funds for all weeks for which they were eligible.

More details [here](#).

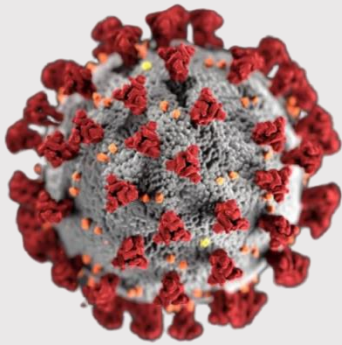
Go to [WorkSourceWA.com](https://WorkSourceWA.com) for information about your local WorkSource office as well as job listings and resources for job seekers and employers."

## **CDC Director: We Can Control Virus in 4 to 8 Weeks if Everyone in the US Wears a Face Cover**

Unless Congress acts to extend or adjust it, the additional \$600 per week in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Program (FPUC) benefits, available under the federal CARES Act, will stop after the week ending Sat., July 25, 2020. FPUC is entirely federally funded and available only at federal discretion. State employment agencies administer the benefits but do not have a say in whether these benefits are extended.

As of July 11, Employment Security had distributed a total of \$4,425,152,128 in FPUC benefits.

"We are committed to supporting both workers and employers as they navigate the changing



# COVID-19

## CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

### ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19  
Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19  
Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help.

In an editorial in the journal JAMA and a corresponding interview with the journal's editor, CDC Director Robert Redfield called for "universal masking" to control the virus in as little as four weeks.

University of Washington's [modeling](#) projects that universal masking could save 45,000 lives by November.

For more information please read the [article](#) and the CDC Director's [editorial](#).

## Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of July 17, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 2:50 p.m.
Confirmed	4,323 (up 66 cases from 7/16)
Probable	527 (down 1 from 7/16)
Deaths	179

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 2:50 p.m.
Arlington	195 (130 recovered)
Bothell*	347 (221 recovered)
Brier	25 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	440 (347 recovered)
Everett	1,420 (1,018 recovered)
Gold Bar	5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	36 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	217 (131 recovered)
Lynnwood	802 (649 recovered)
Marysville	414 (274 recovered)
Mill Creek	77 (55 recovered)
Monroe	159 (87 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	147 (118 recovered)
Mukilteo	81 (72 recovered)
Snohomish	246 (170 recovered)
Stanwood	149 (106 recovered)
Sultan	14 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	39 (24 recovered)
Unknown/Other	5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	21 (11 recovered)
Woodway	9 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. \*Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.